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6 JAN 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Acquisition of Additional U-2 Aircraft from DOD

REFERENCE: Memorandum for DCI, dated 18 November 1963.
Subject: Same as above (3685-63)

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1. This memorandum contains a recommendation for the approval of the DCI; this action is contained in paragraph 8.

2. As you will recall, in the referenced memorandum I reviewed extensively our then current U-2 status vis-a-vis requesting transfer of additional U-2s from DOD. In doing so, and assuming return of our two U-2s on loan to SAC, I arrived at the conclusion that we could weather the next four to six months without being seriously hampered operationally, and thus recommended that we defer any approach to DOD until late next spring.

3. This position having been overtaken by events by the recent loss of an Agency U-2 aircraft on loan to SAC, I now view our operational posture as having deteriorated to the level where we can no longer respond in a timely manner in support of National Intelligence covert collection requirements on a world-wide basis.

4. Accordingly, I believe the first order of business is to immediately request the DOD to furnish CIA with a one-for-one replacement of the U-2 aircraft lost [REDACTED] last month. I believe there have been informal indications from Secretary Gilpatric to the effect that the Air Force would respond affirmatively to such a request, without contention over what they may regard as the appropriate level of the Agency U-2 inventory. At the same time I think it advisable if we indicate in our communication to the DOD requesting this one aircraft that we would like to reserve for reconsideration in the spring the possibility that an additional U-2 aircraft may be needed.

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from Air Force resources. This would bring our level up to the original nine aircraft concept concurred in in July of this year when we received two U-2s from SAC after prolonged discussions in the Joint Chiefs of Staff through the intercession of Secretary Gilpatric.

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5. As a separate but related matter it should be noted that the U-2 losses reduced our J-75 engine inventory to only fourteen engines for what we hope will be a total of eight aircraft. Of the fourteen to which I have alluded, only twelve are on hand, the remaining two being converted [redacted] for delivery in April 1964. Because of this shortage, we feel it necessary to ask the DNRO for an additional two J-75 engines in a separate paper paralleling our request for the aircraft to the DOD. This would then bring our engine spare level to sixteen J-75 engines, considered adequate when taking the overhaul re-cycling time into account. 25X1A5a2

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6. Additionally, since no current fiscal year funds have been programmed in the IDEALIST budget to take care of U-2 conversion funding in the amount of approximately [redacted] not including the engines, which are a direct cost to USAF, will be requested from DNRO.

7. Assuming that you will agree with my conclusion, we have prepared an accompanying letter to the Deputy Secretary of Defense for your signature.

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8. It is recommended that you sign the accompanying letter. 3756-63)

ALBERT D. WHEELON
Deputy Director
(Science and Technology)

Signature Recommended:

DAD/OSA 31 DEC 1963

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DAD/OSA/[redacted]/mcm(revised)
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